

June 1st, 1952.

Director of the Hall of Fame,
One Madison Avenue,
New York City 10, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Please be so kind as to send me the SOUVENIR PROGRAM of the ceremonies held for the installation of Tom Paine and Susan Anthony into the Hall of Fame. I am enclosing two airmail stamps as return postage, but should these be insufficient, or if there are any extra charges or costs I'll be only too glad to grab the check.

I feel very elated over Tom Paine making the grade. I have been a student of Paine and his work for over forty years. I have made many a talk over the years, trying in my small, obscure way to spread a knowledge of his remarkable contributions to Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Many and many a time over the years I have upped my blood-pressure 100% over the patent injustice of relegating such a sterling character, and such a distinguished patriot and outstanding soldier in the Army of Liberation to such undeserved, unseemly and shabby oblivion, while at the same time dishing out glorified hogwash for some miserable, seventh-rate nincompoop that we and our innocent children should think them worthy of admiration. For instance, there is Paul Painleve, an obscure French politician; a turncoat traitor to his socialist electors, yet we find him embalmed in the Encyclopedia Britannica on the same page as Tom Paine, and given absolutely the same lineage. The editors have a weird standard of evaluation. It is the sort of thing that's been making me see red, at least I hope it's red, for, lo, these many moons.

The enclosed clipping from our local paper will give you a very mild idea of the way I feel on the subject. Being a rather cold-blooded, conservative family journal they naturally ran a blue-pencil through some lovely incandescent phrases, but left enough for my fellow townsmen to get the idea of how a good American should feel on the subject of Paine's belated national recognition.

Now I can at long last lay me down in my own obscure niche in Hades with the mild satisfaction of knowing I have lasted long enough to see a tiny fraction of justice done to one of the most deserving democrats in all man's silly, tragic history. Now the next step should be a rousing crusade to get the truth of Tom Paine's philosophy of life and a knowledge of his tremendous contributions to our country into the school books, that our children may be inspired by his noble example and may know and emulate his stirring deeds to the greater glory of Freedom, Peace and security.

Hoping I haven't bored you with my enthusiastic rigmarole
I am

Yours sincerely

Alexander MacKay